

Message

From: Rampone, Emily (Sanders) [Emily_Rampone@sanders.senate.gov]
Sent: 8/2/2016 8:18:29 PM
To: Brown, Rudy [Brown.Rudy@epa.gov]
CC: Thomas, Katie (Sanders) [Katie_Thomas@sanders.senate.gov]; Pero, Haley (Sanders) [Haley_Pero@sanders.senate.gov]
Subject: EPA and Glass Manufacturing Standards

Hi Rudy,

Below I have pasted the narrative of a letter from a constituent who is concerned about EPA regulations for glass manufacturers. Are there any glass manufacturers in Region 1 that need to apply for a Title V permit? Are there any new regulations relating to glass manufacturing that we should be aware of?

Thank you for all your help,

Emily Rampone
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Enclosure:

This week Spectrum Glass in Washington announced that after 40 years of producing colored art glass they will be closing their doors in July. They are the main American manufacturer of many types of colored art glass. This affects an estimated 30,000 Stained Glass, Fused Glass and Glass Blowing Artists, Stores, Art Studios and Hobbyists across America. Fortunately, arrangements have been made for Uroboros Glass in Oregon state to take over production of some of their Art Glass Product line. But there is still a huge problem threatening the American Art Glass Community.

The entire U.S. art glass industry is now being evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with respect to potential new regulations. Spectrum is the first to announce its closure, but other glass producing companies are also evaluating their options. Uroboros Glass has suspended production of two-thirds of their glass while EPA re-evaluates their standards. Long-standing interpretations of air quality regulations are being reevaluated, and if new regulations are applied to our industry, it would require substantial capital expenses. Spectrum Glass Company has operated well within existing environmental guidelines and has been the only stained glass manufacturer to employ baghouse technology on furnace exhaust. Still, they have already accrued extraordinary, unanticipated expenses since the start of the EPA evaluation and cannot withstand additional investments of an unknown scale. These business collapses will have a ripple effect across the country.

What you need to know:

The stained and colored glass industry is a small, but home grown American manufacturing phenomenon. It's unique in the world, provides steady manufacturing jobs for American workers, and is an exporting industry as well.

This industry of just six manufacturers is facing \$2.5-3.5 million of capital investment due to regulatory changes with no advance warning. This investment may prove too much for several of them to bear.

Government intervention is needed for them to meet the goals of the new regulations in such a short time frame.

The industry is willing to meet new regulations, but it needs reasonable time to do so.

The manufacturers are all owned by single individuals and their families, who work daily at their plants. They don't have the resources of publicly traded corporations to simply pay up and move on.

These manufacturers supply thousands of other businesses and craftsmen who depend on their unique glass styles to complete their work. They are now at risk of being put out of work themselves.

The very suppliers who have created the iconic glass of the American stained glass legacy are at risk due to this situation.

There is currently no actual verification that the glass industry is connected to the detected toxins. EPA did moss testing, a new science, which raised public concern. They retested and found the levels to be safe. The current EPA review and imposed freeze of production is all based in fear not fact.

I want to protect the environment, but I do not want to crush an American Art Industry on assumed causation.

Please do whatever you can to prevent the loss of small businesses, jobs and and entire art form. The American Art Glass community needs your help.